

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4679

ANSWERED ON:18.04.2001

SUBSIDY TO HAJ PILGRIMS

JAGMEET SINGH BRAR;SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL;VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia had commented, as reported in the press, that extending subsidy to Haj pilgrims violates the tenets and spirit of shariat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether even Pakistan has discontinued subsidy for Haj pilgrimage; and
- (d) if so, whether the Government propose to reduce the Haj subsidy in a phased manner?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU)

- (a) & (b) The Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia did refer to the question of providing assistance for Haj pilgrims in passing, and expressed the view that, in general, only those pilgrims should perform Haj who have means for it.
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) The Cabinet in its meeting held on 30th October, 2000, while approving the proposal for subsidy for Haj 2001, directed that a proposal to reduce the subsidy in a phased manner for Haj 2002 and beyond be brought up immediately after Haj 2001. Accordingly, the Ministry of Civil Aviation is taking necessary action.